

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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DIME NOVELS

One of America's most distinguished petrologists collects dime novels as a hobby. He is Dr. Albert Johannsen, professor emeritus of the department of petrology of the University of Chicago, author of learned works on petrology. Dr. Johannsen has some 5,000 dime novels in his collection, beginning with "Malaska," by Mrs. Ann Stevens, published in 1860 by the now defunct Beadle & Adams. He has all the Deadwood Dick dime novels (and hasn't read a single one); books of the Half Dime Library, published by Beadle & Adams (in the '70s they began to call them libraries); dozens of detective dime novels of the '80s; revolutionary war tales, love stories, Indian stories, and the later western stories. He is doing a bibliography of the Beadle and Adams publications which will delight other dime novel collectors. There is said to be some 700 of them throughout the country.

The first book we spelled our way through that wasn't for juveniles was "Pilgrim's Progress," but the second literary endeavor we remember engaging in was surreptitiously reading a dime novel borrowed from an older neighbor boy. It was one of a series called "Young Wild West." The hero had flowing golden hair, wore buckskins, coiled a mean lariat, was a dead shot, and, as we recall, rescued a girl named Loretta from horrible danger. It was here we first encountered the phrase, "And another redskin bit the dust." Reading was slow business, for we weren't very good at it yet. The book remains a vivid mem-

ory. Possibly because it was taken away, and as a result the neighbor boy's secret cache of dime novels was discovered and destroyed by his mother.

—June Provinces.

(From Line-o-Type Column, Argo Tribune, May 25, 1938.)

(Sent in by S. B. Hamilton)

THE OLD BOOK STORE

The book store in my native town gave little space to transient stuff; it turned the cheaper fiction down—it simply wasn't good enough. It went in strong for "Standard Works," to elevate the local homes; and all the sad and weary clerks were busy dusting noble tomes. The standard poets were all there, from Homer down to Edgar Poe; the customer could take a chair and read them for an hour or so; but nothing modern was at hand—the bubbling rhyme of yesterday was by the rigid bookman canned before it could get under way. There Dickens, Thackeray and Scott made an eternal, endless hit, and Bulwer Lytton's tiresome rot invited men to throw a fit. But Beadle's dime and half-dime books were not in sight around that store, and tales of sheriffs, sleuths and crooks were outlawed there for ever more. Great books of sermons were on sale, the sermons of long dead divines, and people really spent their kale to read those dull and turgid lines. The bookstore man grew rich in time by following his ancient ways and dodging all cheap prose and rhyme — he couldn't do it in these days.

—Walt Mason.

(Sent in By Bob Smeltzer)

TO ALL DIME NOVEL FANS

Many of you may contemplate "taking in" the World's Fair at San Francisco this year, and would, perhaps, like a little information on the subject, which you may not find in the advertising literature.

First, I would advise you not to come any earlier than April. Later would be better, on account of the climate. The rainy season ends about that time, and after April it seldom rains before November.

Second, be sure to bring a light overcoat, regardless of the time of year. It is perpetual Spring Time here, but you know Spring has some pretty cool days. The nights here are nearly always chilly. So dress as you would dress in April in such states as Pennsylvania or Southern Ohio at that time of year, and you will be comfortable. We occasionally have a few real warm days, that is, what we consider real warm here, around 80 or 85 degrees while the sun is shining. This may occur in September, October, and even in November. But it never lasts very long. Usually about three days. But no matter how warm it may be during the day, a light overcoat is nearly always in order at night. It is usually coldest about 8:00 p.m., growing a little warmer towards midnight.

Third, Treasure Island, the World's Fair site is located in the bay between San Francisco and Oakland, and is about as convenient from one city as the other. Accommodations might be found at a lower price in Oakland, and if one wished to visit San Francisco, very little time would be lost in doing so, it being about 25 minutes from the business section of Oakland via the big bridge to Fourth and Market Streets, San Francisco, about the busiest part of the city.

Fourth (and real important), every dime novel enthusiast who visits the big Golden Gate Exposition is cordially invited to drop around and see my collection and swap gossip and novels. My address is 1951 East 30th Street, Oakland, California; but to avoid disappointment, please call me for an appointment so as to catch me at home. My telephone is Fruitvale 4288J.

—P. J. Moran.

NEW MAGNET LIBRARY NO. 1036

By Harold C. Holmes

Here is the data on New Magnet Library 230 and its reprint number 1086.

First story begins on Page 5 and is a reprint of Shield Weekly 13. The first scene is unchanged being laid on Island of Nantuchet, Mass., but latter part of story is Boston in Shield and New York in New Magnet. Sheridan Keene's role is taken by Nick. One conversation between Sheridan Keene and his landlady Mrs. Dodge is given in New Magnet as between Nick and his wife Ethel. Two chief criminals in Shield become John Gleason and Richard Gray in New Magnet. Other characters and the story itself is unchanged. Story ends on page 74.

Second story beginning on next page is a reprint of Shield Weekly 19. Shield's boy detective Steve Manley is taken by Patsy. Inspector Garrity of Pittsburgh police is Chick's role while Nick's is that of Chief of Police O'Mara. The chief criminals are the same in both publications. Scene is changed from Pittsburgh and Allegheny to N. Y. and Brooklyn. Otherwise a word for word reprint till very last. In Shield whole gang is captured and case is closed. In New Magnet the chief criminal escapes. Story ends on page 139.

Third story begins on next page and is reprint of Shield Weekly 21. Scene of action is changed as in the second story. Nick and Chick's roles are also as in second story but Bob Ferret is given the role of Steve Manley. Story ends on page 211.

Shield Weekly 13 had a sort of epilogue of about 5 paragraphs at the end of its story and these paragraphs are printed and the final ones in the New Magnet Volume.

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Other papers that Charles Austin
had write-ups in, also illustrations,
all different:

The Youngstown Vindicator, Youngs-
town, Ohio, 10c per copy to Pub. Jan
29, 1939.

The Detroit News Pictorial, Jan 29,
1939. 10c per COPY to pub.

Washington Post Rotogravure Section,
Jan. 29, 1939, 10c per copy to pub.
Washington, D. C.

The Sunday Call, Newark, N. J. Jan.
29th, 1939. Article by George French.
10c per copy to Pub.

Milwaukee Journal, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Feb. 3, 1939. Collector Specializes in
Jesse James, etc. 10c to Pub.

Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia, Pa.
Full page write-up, and pictures of
Charles H. Austin, and his dime no-
vel collection. Jan 1st, 1939. 10c per
copy.

Life Mag., 330 E. 22nd St., Chicago, Ill.
has 4 full page writeups and illus-
trations on Jesse James, Bob Ford,
and Dime Novels. Jan 30, 1939. 10c
per copy.

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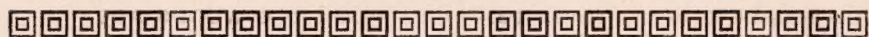
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